

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A pacifier assembly comprising:

a shield having a first side and a second side,

a nipple extending outward from the first side of said shield from an aperture in said shield, and

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a nipple cover permanently movably mounted to said shield and selectively movable between an open position exposing said nipple and a closed position covering said nipple.

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2. The pacifier assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cover is pivotally mounted to said shield.

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3. The pacifier assembly according to claim 2, wherein said cover is pivotally mounted at central pivot points on said shield located in a central area of said shield, and wherein said cover pivots through slots in said shield.

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4. A pacifier assembly comprising:

a shield having a first side and a second side,

a first nipple extending outward from the first side of said shield from a first aperture in said shield, and a second nipple extending outward from the second side of said shield from a second aperture in said shield, and

a first cover permanently movably mounted to said shield and selectively movable between a first position in which said first nipple is covered and a second position in which said first nipple is left uncovered by said first cover.

5. The pacifier assembly according to claim 4, wherein said first cover is pivotally mounted at central pivot points on said shield located in a central area of said shield, and wherein said first cover pivots through at least one slot in said shield.

5 6. The pacifier assembly according to claim 5, wherein said second nipple is covered by said first cover when said first cover is in the second position.

10 7. The pacifier assembly according to claim 5, further comprising a second cover pivotally mounted to said shield and selectively movably between a first position in which said second nipple is covered and a second position in which said second nipple is left uncovered by said second cover.

15 8. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein said first nipple is covered by said first cover and said second nipple is covered by said second cover under the condition that said first cover is in its first position and said second cover is in its first position.

20 9. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein said first nipple is covered by said second cover and said second nipple is covered by said first cover under the condition that said first cover is in its second position and said second cover is in its second position.

25 10. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein, under the condition that said first cover is in its first position and said second cover is in its second position, said first nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said second nipple is exposed.

11. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein, under the condition that said first cover is in its second position and said second cover is in its first position, said second nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said first nipple is exposed.

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12. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein said assembly can be selectively manually placed in at least three configurations, wherein:

under the condition that said assembly is in a first configuration, said first nipple is covered by said first cover and said second nipple is covered by said second cover,

under the condition that said assembly is in a second configuration, said first nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said second nipple is exposed, and

under the condition that said assembly is in a third configuration, said second nipple is covered by both said second cover and said first cover in a nested configuration, and said first nipple is exposed.

13. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, further comprising a first mechanism for temporarily securing said first cover in either its first or second position, and a second mechanism for temporarily securing said second cover in either its first or second position.

14. The pacifier assembly according to claim 13, wherein said first mechanism and said second mechanism comprise snap fit members which releasably secure said covers in their respective positions.

15. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein said first nipple and said second nipple are parts of an integral dual nipple unit which is mounted within said shield at a central portion.

5 16. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein said first nipple comprises a flanged distal end mounted on a first inside shoulder portion of said first aperture, and said second nipple comprises a flanged distal end mounted on a second inside shoulder portion of said second aperture.

10 17. The pacifier assembly according to claim 16, wherein said first aperture and said second aperture form opposite sides of a continuous bore through said shield.

15 18. The pacifier assembly according to claim 7, wherein the first side and the second side of said shield are each shaped concavely to follow the contour of the face of an infant.

19. A pacifier assembly comprising:
a shield assembly having a first shield member comprising an inner side and
an outer side, and a second shield member comprising an inner side and an outer side,
said first and second shield members being permanently attached to one another at their
respective inner sides,

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25 a first nipple extending outward from the outer side of said first shield member from a first aperture in said first shield member, and a second nipple extending outward from the outer side of said second shield member from a second aperture in said second shield member, and

a first cover pivotally mounted to said shield assembly and selectively movable between a first position in which said first nipple is covered by said first cover, and a second position in which said second nipple is covered by said first cover.

5 20. The pacifier assembly according to claim 19, wherein said first cover is pivotally mounted at central pivot points on said shield assembly located in a central area of said shield assembly, and wherein said first cover pivots through slots in said shield assembly.

10 21. The pacifier assembly according to claim 20, further comprising a second cover pivotally mounted to said shield assembly and selectively movably between a first position in which said second nipple is covered by said second cover and a second position in which said first nipple is covered by said second cover.

15 22. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein said first nipple is covered by said first cover and said second nipple is covered by said second cover under the condition that said first cover is in its first position and said second cover is in its first position.

20 23. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein said first nipple is covered by said second cover and said second nipple is covered by said first cover under the condition that said first cover is in its second position and said second cover is in its second position.

25 24. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein, under the condition that said first cover is in its first position and said second cover is in its second position, said first nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said second nipple is exposed.

25. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein, under the condition that said first cover is in its second position and said second cover is in its first position, said second nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said first nipple is exposed.

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26. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein said assembly can be selectively manually placed in at least three configurations, wherein:

under the condition that said assembly is in a first configuration, said first nipple is covered by said first cover and said second nipple is covered by said second cover,

under the condition that said assembly is in a second configuration, said first nipple is covered by both said first cover and said second cover in a nested configuration, and said second nipple is exposed, and

under the condition that said assembly is in a third configuration, said second nipple is covered by both said second cover and said first cover in a nested configuration, and said first nipple is exposed.

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27. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, further comprising a first mechanism for temporarily securing said first cover in either its first or second position, and a second mechanism for temporarily securing said second cover in either its first or second position.

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28. The pacifier assembly according to claim 27, wherein said first mechanism and said second mechanism comprise snap fit members which releasably secure said covers in their respective positions.

29. The pacifier assembly according to claim 20, wherein said first nipple and said second nipple are parts of an integral dual nipple unit which is mounted within said shield assembly at a central portion.

5 30. The pacifier assembly according to claim 20, wherein said first nipple comprises a flanged distal end mounted on a first inside shoulder portion of said first aperture, and said second nipple comprises a flanged distal end mounted on a second inside shoulder portion of said second aperture.

10 31. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, wherein the outer sides of said shield members are each shaped concavely to follow the contour of the face of an infant.

15 32. The pacifier assembly according to claim 20, further comprising raised interface walls extending from the inner sides of said shield members and substantially surrounding perimeters of said apertures, said interface walls having grooves for receiving a pivot pin extending from said first cover, wherein said shield members are mounted at opposing said interface walls.

20 33. The pacifier assembly according to claim 21, further comprising raised interface walls extending from the inner sides of said shield members and substantially surrounding perimeters of said apertures, said interface walls having grooves for receiving pivot pins extending from said first cover and said second cover, wherein said shield members are mounted at opposing said interface walls.

25 34. The pacifier assembly according to claim 33, wherein said pins are placed in a nested configuration within the same said grooves.